

SUBTROP BULLETIN

VOLUME 4
October 2020



INDUSTRY NEWS

- SAAGA's video on Sustainable Avocado Production in SA: [Watch here](#)
- OVERVIEW GLOBAL AVOCADO MARKET – [Freshplaza](#)
- OVERVIEW GLOBAL MANGO MARKET – [Freshplaza](#)
- Perspective on agriculture's performance in Quarter 2 of 2020 – [BFAP](#)
- Project 'Fruit Fly Free' fruit production in Southern Africa - [Freshplaza](#)
- Mango cultivar resistance against anthracnose – [Freshplaza](#)
- Smart avocado reveals the bumpy ride after harvest - [Freshplaza](#)
- Policy brief: Expropriation Bill, 2020 tabled in Parliament(13 October 2020) – [Agbiz](#)



PROMOTIONS

SABC 3 Expresso

- September 1st – [Braai salad](#) & Lasizwe video
- September 25th – [Avo pesto](#) & chorizo pasta



Publicity

- Heritage Day
 - [GET IT MAGAZINE](#)
 - [SA Chef](#)



Culinary School

- 75 students entered from 13 culinary schools
- Winning school: Institute of Culinary Art
 - 1st Xola Makasi SAACA
 - 2nd Vicci Vierbergen ICA
 - 3rd Nondwe Mbusi SAACA



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TECHNICAL

Orchard management in October

Litchi

- Foliar applications
 - 1-2 applications CaNO_3 (2%) or similar within 6 weeks after female flower
 - Auxin at 3-4 g stage for fruit size (optional)
 - 1-2 % MKP at 8-10 g stage for fruit colour (optional)
- Leaf samples may be taken through late-September and October.
- Flower growth and fruit set use a lot of energy so steadily increase your irrigation to limit stress and enhance good fruit set and development
- Pests: FCM, Litchi Moth and fruit flies
 - Monitor with pheromone-specific traps
 - Use control measures according to label & SALGA-MRL list
 - Biocontrol agents: Entomopathogenic organisms, predatory insects, Granulovirus for FCM, etc.
 - Mating disruption
 - Lures
 - Pesticides



Mango

- Take soil and leaf samples in October
- Irrigation is important especially early in October in dry regions
- Thrips
 - Monitor citrus thrips on fruit from set to golf ball size
 - Use bee-friendly chemicals e.g. Fipronil @ 7,5 – 10 ml / 100L water
- Fruit fly:
 - Monitor the fruit fly population and spray accordingly
 - Make use of products like GF 120 NF (Spinosad)
- Anthracnose and Soft brown rot
 - E.g. Copper oxychloride products @ 250 - 300 g / 100 L water together with a wetting agent. Apply first spray 2 weeks after fruit set and repeat every 3 weeks.
 - Alternatively: Azoxystrobin spray on marble size fruit with a concentration of 40 ml / 100 L water. Medium cover spray: 800 - 1000 L water/ha.
- Bacterial blackspot
 - E.g. Copper Sulphate / mancozeb @ 200 g / 100 L water
 - Spray preventatively
 - Apply a minimum of 2 sprays at 60-day intervals, starting in early September
 - Spray until point of run-off and ensure that the inside growth is also thoroughly covered
 - Citrole 100 can be added for better wetting and spreading at a rate of 250 ml / 100 L water



Avocado

Management guidelines for high-rainfall cycle

While rain is always welcome in farming, it brings its own challenges. For avocados, a wet summer (or spring) and high temperatures favour several pathogens. Growers are encouraged to be aware of the following:

- **Cercospora spot** (*Pseudocercospora purpurea*)
 - Refer to [Cercospora & other diseases booklet](#) and [Cercospora Spot Factsheet](#) (click on the link to access the document)
 - Spores require free moisture (dew) to germinate and penetrate the fruit's skin
 - Orchards receiving minimal morning sun (also overcrowded orchards) are most susceptible
 - Fruit smaller than pigeon egg size (2-3 cm) are not susceptible to infection
 - Use Darvas' Z-value to calculate spore load and when first copper spraying should commence
 - Spore release and infection risk is very high when the Z-value exceeds 20 and the fruit are larger than 3 cm diameter
 - Spraying should start early enough to cover all orchards in time
 - E.g. if it takes one week to cover all orchards, start spraying when the fruit are approx. 2,5 cm in diameter, or the Z value reaches 10
 - Growers with limited equipment should start spraying earlier
 - For complete Cercospora control, fruit need to be covered with copper every 30 days after initial application until disease pressure is low, or two months before harvesting
 - Fungicides registered for control
 - Azoxystrobin
 - various copper-based chemicals
 - Benomyl and Carbendazim: not for export market
- **Pepper spot** (*Colletotrichum* spp.): see the [Cercospora & other diseases booklet](#)
 - Fludioxonil/Cyprodinil and copper-based chemicals are registered for control.
- **Anthracnose** (*Colletotrichum* spp.): see the [Cercospora & other diseases booklet](#)
 - Fludioxonil/Cyprodinil and various copper-based chemicals are registered for control
- Remember
 - Copper-containing contact fungicides can be washed off by rain and follow-up applications may be required after a wet spell
 - Only use a "sticker" or oil for the first and/or second copper fungicide application of the season – its use close to harvest may lead to visual residue on the fruit that are difficult to remove in the packhouse
- **Phytophthora root rot** (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*): use phosphonates to control root rot according to the [Management Guidelines](#)
- Calcium (Ca) and Potassium (K) are the most important nutrients throughout October because of their crucial involvement in the cell division process. These can be applied to the soil as Calcium nitrate (CaNO₃) and Potassium sulphate (K₂SO₄) fertilisers. Be careful not to apply too much Nitrogen (N) as this will result in excessive vegetative growth and fruit drop. Therefore, do not apply Calcium Nitrate (CaNO₃) and MAP simultaneously.



More management information is available on the SAAGA website under "[Technical info](#)" or the **Avocado Production Guide** app on your mobile device: avoproductionguide.co.za

